

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) A vital data utilization system comprising:

a server;

a receiving apparatus; and

a plurality of measurement instruments,

wherein said server, said receiving apparatus, and said measurement instruments are connected to each other via a communication network,

wherein each of said measurement instruments includes:

a vital data measurement unit ~~that measures~~ operable to measure vital data of a subject of a plurality of subjects in a quantitative manner;

a clock unit ~~that detects~~ operable to detect a measurement time at which the vital data of the subject is measured by said vital data measurement unit; and

a sending unit ~~that sends~~ operable to send, to said server, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time,

wherein said server includes:

a receiving unit ~~that receives~~ operable to receive, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time;

a storage unit;

a database making unit ~~that stores~~ storing each received set of information in said storage unit and ~~that makes, using a processor thereof, making~~ a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

a value-added information making unit ~~that averages using a processor thereof, on~~ a per predetermined time segment basis, values of the vital data of a same kind obtained from ~~each of the plurality of subjects in a predetermined area, and that makes value-added information-~~ calculating the vital data for each respective subject and measurement time stored in the database ~~and making value-added information~~ indicating changes over time of ~~the averaged average~~ values of the vital data of the same kind, ~~the values of the vital data being measured using said measurement instruments and being stored in the database~~ calculated for the plurality of subjects; and

a value-added information providing unit ~~that provides~~ operable to provide said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information, and

wherein said receiving apparatus includes an output unit ~~that receives~~ operable to receive the value-added information provided by said value-added information providing unit and ~~that outputs~~ operable to output the value-added information.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein:

said database making unit ~~updates~~ is operable to update the database when receiving at least one new set of information; and

said value-added information making unit ~~updates is operable to update~~ the value-added information based on the updated database.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein said receiving apparatus is placed in at least one of a hospital, a public facility, and a subject's house.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein said vital data measurement unit ~~measures is operable to measure~~ vital data which is an indicator of an infection.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented) The vital data utilization system according to claim 33, wherein the vital data which is an indicator of an infection is at least one of body temperature, blood pressure, pulse, cardiograph, oxygen saturation in blood, accelerated pulse wave velocity, a number of white blood cells, C-reactive protein concentration in blood (CRP), protein concentration in urine, glucose concentration in urine, amino acid concentration in urine, and feces viscosity.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 34, wherein the protein in urine is at ~~least~~ ~~least~~ one of albumin, globulin, hemoglobin, and myoglobin.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein said vital data measurement unit is placed as housing equipment in the subject's house.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented) The vital data utilization system according to claim 36, wherein:

the housing equipment is at least one of a toilet apparatus and a bed; and

said vital data measurement unit includes at least one of a thermometer, a blood-pressure meter, a pulsimeter, an electrocardiograph, and a meter of oxygen saturation in blood, that are for measuring the vital data, and measures the vital data at a time when the subject uses at least one of the toilet apparatus and the bed.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented) The vital data utilization system according to claim 36, wherein:

the housing equipment is a toilet apparatus; and

said vital data measurement unit includes a urine analyzer and measures the vital data at a time when the subject uses the toilet apparatus.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented) The vital data utilization system according to claim 38, wherein the urine analyzer mixes urine of the subject and a reagent including an antibody that specifically combines with an analysis target component, measures turbidity of a resulting mixed solution, and measures an analysis target component in the urine.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein said server further includes a charging unit that calculates ~~operable to calculate~~ a charge for the value-added information provided to said receiving apparatus.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 40, wherein said server includes an incentive calculation unit that calculates ~~operable to calculate~~ an incentive for each subject.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 41, wherein said incentive calculation unit adds ~~is operable to add~~, to a charge calculated by said charging unit, a value of the incentive for each subject.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 41, wherein said incentive calculation unit calculates ~~is operable to calculate~~ points to be exchanged for at least one of (i) a right to receive the value-added information, (ii) a right to receive a discount from a rate of the value-added information, (iii) a right to receive a free distribution of, or a discount from a sale price of, a commodity to be used by said vital data measurement unit, (iv) a right to receive another service, and (v) a right to receive a free distribution of, or a discount from a sale price of, another commodity.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended) A vital data utilization system comprising:
a server;

a receiving apparatus; and
a plurality of measurement instruments,
wherein said server, said receiving apparatus, and said measurement instruments are
connected to each other via a communication network,

wherein each of said measurement instruments includes:

a vital data measurement unit ~~that measures~~ ~~operable to measure~~ vital data of a
subject of a plurality of subjects;

a clock unit ~~that detects~~ ~~operable to detect~~ a measurement time at which the vital
data of the subject is measured by said vital data measurement unit; and

a sending unit ~~that adds~~ ~~operable to add~~, to a set of information including the
measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time, identification information
identifying a corresponding one of measurement instruments and subjects of the plurality of
subjects-measurement instrument or a subject, and ~~that sends~~ ~~operable to send~~, to said server, the
set of information including the measured vital data of the subject, the measurement time, and
the identification information,

wherein said server includes:

a receiving unit ~~that receives~~ ~~operable to receive~~, from each of said measurement
instruments, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject, the
measurement time, and the identification information;

a storage unit;

a database making unit ~~that stores~~ ~~storing~~ each received set of information in said
storage unit and ~~that makes, using a processor thereof, based on the identification information,-~~

~~making~~ individual databases where each received set of information for ~~the~~ corresponding ~~one of~~ ~~the~~ measuring instruments ~~or~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ subjects is stored in a respective individual database based on the identification information;

a value-added information making unit ~~that (i)-calculating calculates, using a~~ ~~processor thereof,~~ differential values between the vital data included in the sets of information stored in the individual databases and previously-set standard values of the vital data, (ii)-~~averaging averages~~ the calculated differential values ~~obtained from each of the plurality of~~ ~~subjects having vital data measured using said measurement instruments in a predetermined area-~~ ~~concerning subjects satisfying a predetermined condition~~ in a predetermined time segment, and (iii)-~~making makes~~ value-added information indicating changes over time of ~~the averaged-~~ ~~average values of the~~ differential values calculated ~~for the predetermined area for the plurality of~~ subjects; and

a value-added information providing unit ~~that provides operable to provide~~ said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information, and

wherein said receiving apparatus includes an output unit ~~that receives operable to receive~~ the value-added information provided by said value-added information providing unit and ~~that~~ ~~outputs operable to output~~ the value-added information.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented) The vital data utilization system according to claim 44, wherein the subjects satisfying the predetermined condition are subjects having vital data measured in a same predetermined geographical area or living in the same predetermined graphical area.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended) A vital data utilization system comprising:

a server;

a receiving apparatus; and

a plurality of measurement instruments,

wherein said server, said receiving apparatus, and said measurement instruments are connected to each other via a communication network,

wherein each of said measurement instruments includes:

a vital data measurement unit ~~that measures~~~~-operable to measure~~ vital data of a subject of a plurality of subjects;

a clock unit ~~that detects~~~~-operable to detect~~ a measurement time at which the vital data of the subject is measured by said vital data measurement unit; and

a sending unit ~~that adds~~~~-operable to add~~, to a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time, subject identification information identifying a corresponding subject of said measurement instrument, and ~~that sends~~~~-operable to send~~, to said server, the set of information including the measured vital data of the subject, the measurement time, and the subject identification information,

wherein said server includes:

a receiving unit ~~that receives~~~~-operable to receive~~, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including the measured vital data, the measurement time, and the subject identification information;

a storage unit;

a database making unit ~~that stores~~ storing each received set of information in said storage unit and ~~that makes, using a processor thereof,~~ making individual subject databases where each received set of information for the subjects is stored in a respective individual database based on the subject identification information;

a value-added information making unit ~~that (i)-calculating~~ calculates, using a processor thereof, differential values between the vital data included in the sets of information stored in the individual subject databases and ~~individual subject averages of the vital data obtained from the individual subjects~~ in a past predetermined period, (ii)-~~averaging~~ averages the calculated differential values ~~obtained from each of the plurality of~~ concerning the subjects, ~~having vital data measured using said measurement instruments in a predetermined area-satisfying a predetermined condition~~ in a predetermined time segment, and (iii)-~~making~~ makes value-added information indicating changes over time of ~~the averaged average values of the differential values calculated for the predetermined area for the plurality subjects;~~ and

a value-added information providing unit ~~that provides~~ operable to provide said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information, and

wherein said receiving apparatus includes an output unit ~~that receives~~ operable to receive the value-added information provided by said value-added information providing unit and ~~that outputs~~ operable to output the value-added information.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented) The vital data utilization system according to claim 46, wherein the subjects that satisfy the predetermined condition are the subjects having vital data

measured in a same predetermined geographical area or living in the same predetermined geographical area.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended) A server which is connected to a receiving apparatus and a plurality of measurement instruments via a communication network, said server comprising:

a receiving unit that receives ~~operable to receive~~, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including ~~measured~~ vital data of a subject, ~~measured in a quantitative manner~~, and a measurement time of the vital data, the vital data being of a same kind and measured in a quantitative manner;

a storage unit;

a database making unit that stores ~~storing~~ each received set of information in said storage unit and that makes, using a processor thereof, ~~making~~ a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

a value-added information making unit that averages using a processor thereof, on a per predetermined time segment basis, values of the vital data of a same kind obtained from each of the plurality of subjects in a predetermined area, and that makes value-added information- ~~calculating the vital data for each respective subject and measurement time stored in the database and making value-added information~~ indicating changes over time of the averaged average values of the vital data of the same kind, the values of the vital data being measured using said measurement instruments and being stored in the database ~~calculated for the plurality of~~ subjects; and

a value-added information providing unit ~~that provides~~ ~~operable to provide~~ said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 48, wherein:

said receiving unit ~~receives~~ ~~is operable to receive~~, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information to which subject identification information[[],] identifying a corresponding subject of each measurement instrument[[],] is added;

said database making unit ~~makes~~ ~~is operable to make~~ individual subject databases where each received set of information for the subjects is stored in a respective individual subject database based on the subject identification information; and

said value-added information making unit ~~is operable to~~ (i) ~~calculate~~ calculates differential values between the vital data included in the sets of information stored in the individual subject databases and previously-set standard values of the vital data, and (ii) ~~make~~ makes value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the differential values calculated for the plurality of subjects.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 48, wherein:

said receiving unit ~~receives~~ ~~is operable to receive~~, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information to which subject identification information[[],] identifying a corresponding subject of each measurement instrument[[],] is added;

said database making unit ~~makes is operable to make~~ individual subject databases where each received set of information for the subjects is stored in a respective individual subject based on the subject identification information; and

said value-added information making unit ~~is operable to~~ (i) ~~calculate~~ calculates differential values between the vital data included in the sets of information stored in the individual subject databases and ~~individual subject~~ averages of the vital data obtained from the individual subjects in a past predetermined period, and (ii) ~~make~~ makes value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of differential values calculated for the plurality of subjects.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended) The vital data utilization system according to claim 48, wherein:

said database making unit ~~updates is operable to update~~ the database after receiving at least one new set of information; and

said value-added information unit ~~updates is operable to update~~ the value-added information based on the updated database.

Claims 52-54 (Cancelled)

Claim 55 (Currently Amended) A server which is connected to a receiving apparatus and a plurality of measurement instruments via a communication network, said server comprising a storage unit ~~that holds~~ holding data comprising information specifying each predetermined time

segment and an average value of vital data of a same kind of each of a plurality of subjects calculated for each predetermined time segment, the vital data being measured using the measurement instruments in a predetermined area, and the information and the average value being associated with each other.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended) A receiving apparatus which is connected to a server and a plurality of measurement instruments via a communication network, said receiving apparatus comprising:

an output unit that receives ~~operable to receive~~ information provided by the server and, that outputs ~~operable to output~~ the information,

wherein each of said measurement instruments includes:

a vital data measurement unit that measures ~~operable to measure~~ vital data of a subject of a plurality of subjects in a quantitative manner;

a clock unit that detects ~~operable to detect~~ a measurement time at which the vital data of the subject is measured by said vital data measurement unit; and

a sending unit that sends ~~operable to send~~, to said server, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time, and

wherein said server includes:

a receiving unit that receives ~~operable to receive~~, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time;

a storage unit;

a database making unit ~~that stores~~ storing each received set of information in said storage unit and ~~that makes, using a processor thereof,~~ making a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

a value-added information making unit ~~that averages using a processor thereof,~~ on a per predetermined time segment basis, values of the vital data of a same kind obtained from ~~each of the plurality of subjects in a predetermined area, and that makes value-added information-~~ calculating the vital data for each respective subject and measurement time stored in the database ~~and making value-added information~~ indicating changes over time of ~~the averaged~~ average values of the vital data ~~of the same kind, the values of the vital data being measured using said measurement instruments and being stored in the database-~~ calculated for the plurality of subjects; and

a value-added information providing unit ~~that provides~~ operable to provide said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information.